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## OIL THAT IS GRIT

**T**HERE is an element of the ironical in the fact that much of the world's turmoil, national rivalry, and defeat of rational and judicial processes of settling international disputes is now due to oil—mineral oil, to be sure, but nevertheless fuel lubricating as well as oil.

In Venezuela, Mexico, the United States; in the Caucasus, Persia and Mesopotamia, diplomacy, bribery, trickery, and brute force are contending for possession of territory that has beneath its surface petroleum and all its valuable potential by-products. Governments need the stock for their navies of the air and water, and also for motor land transportation. Shipping companies and marine trusts covet a substitute for King Coal. Vast industries, with millions invested in the belief that petroleum and gasoline are to be used on an even greater scale than the present, press insistently on governments for action of a protective sort. Yet oil is supposed to be the lubricant which, if cast on waves of the sea, stills the tempest!

During the past month so acute has been the rivalry and so intense the feeling over this issue of monopolistic control *versus* equitable distribution of the petroleum supply of the world, that it has forced ministers of state to public explanations and led ambassadors to make explanation of their governments' purposes. Whether the declarations have had their desired mollifying effect remains to be seen. Probably they have lessened the friction somewhat; but that there has been any change of heart, registering itself in less rivalry and more equity, has yet to be shown. Just so far as the pledges of a "square deal" are kept will there be a lessening of the tension. Anglo-French relations on so many issues are now so vexed and vexing that Great Britain can well concede to her recent ally at least a "look in" upon the product of territory recently Turkish, even assuming that the British title will remain valid in those fields. But there remains the fact that Russian armies and Russian soviet propaganda are challenging this assumption.

**S**INCE the armistice both Japan and Brazil have deliberately turned to France and her military staff for educators of their future armies. Exit Germany and the school of von Moltke; enter France and the school of Foch! "The king is dead. Long live the King!" "Nothing succeeds like success." These instances will be multiplied. The Gallic, and not the Germanic, tradition now will take root in soil prepared for it in some cases prior to the war, and in others fertilized by the war's blood. It remains to be seen whether the shift in schoolmasters will improve the

students. Admirers of France, though "pacifists," will predict bettered results. Critics of French national policy since the armistice are saying that the schoolmaster may be better, but his "curriculum" is just as anti-social, anti-international, and anti-humanitarian.

**I**N THE January, 1919, number of the *ADVOCATE* will be found an article by Prof. W. E. B. Dubois, editor of *The Crisis*, the ablest of the journals for Negroes published in this country. In this article he outlined his hopes for an African Congress, to be held in Paris while the statesmen of the Allies and associate nations were parceling out the world, including Africa. The story of how Professor Dubois, by his tact, perseverance, seizure of opportunity, and diplomacy in dealing with M. Clemenceau, brought this conference into being against the wishes of the United States and Great Britain has yet to be written in detail; but to hear it from the lips of Professor Dubois is a memorable experience. We have recalled this matter because at the annual meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Negroes, held last month at Atlanta, Georgia, the Spingarn Medal, which is awarded annually to some leader of the race for outstanding service, was conferred on Professor Dubois; and the reason assigned was his record in organizing the African Congress at Paris.

**M**ARTIAL law in Greece, ordered re-established by Premier Venezelos early in June, is due, according to that statesman, to the open machinations of the former king, and his adherents, and to their disposition not only to put Constantine back in power, but also to interfere as much as possible with the by-no-means-easy task that Greece has assumed in ruling the new possessions conceded to her by the Treaty with Turkey. These concessions give Greece a physical domain such as she has not known in many centuries; they call for immediate use of her army and navy against a Turkey that is disposed to resist giving practical effect to surrenders assented to under compulsion. Already clashes between Turkish and Grecian forces have taken place. Enlisted with the Turks are Bulgarian volunteers, who are thus settling accounts with a Greece that has won under the treaty what she never had expected to gain from Bulgaria by force of arms. Fortunately, economically and financially considered, Greece, as she faces her new tasks, is in a more normal state than most of the nations of Europe. If she can hold her newly acquired areas and develop them quickly on their agricultural, trading, and shipping sides, she bids fair to enjoy a prosperity unknown for generations.